

## INTRODUCTION

Many fascinating careers are available in the maritime industry which offers:

- ◆ Extensive travel and adventure
- ◆ Responsibility
- ◆ Excellent pay and benefits

Maritime careers belong to one of the following shipboard departments:

- ◆ **Deck**—navigation, cargo handling, and management
- ◆ **Engineering**—propulsion, maintenance and management
- ◆ **Steward/hotel**—food services, sanitation, and accommodations

Almost anyone can find a job in the maritime industry by:

- ◆ Contacting a **maritime company or union**
- ◆ Contacting a **maritime crewing agency**
- ◆ Attending a **maritime technical training school**
- ◆ Attending a **maritime academy or college** to become a licensed officer

The U.S. merchant marine consists of privately-owned, U.S. registered merchant ships and a variety of towing, offshore supply, and passenger vessels which provide waterborne transportation for passengers and cargoes moving in domestic and international commerce. Employment on these vessels is the responsibility of the owners and is handled by maritime labor organizations or through direct employment by the company.

Part-time or summer employment is available in some sectors of the maritime industry such as the passenger vessel industry. The level of seafaring employment is determined by

the state of U.S. and world business conditions, and improvements in ship technology.

This pamphlet provides information on shipboard employment and related maritime education and training programs. Primary shipboard employment categories include high seas, Great Lakes, towing and barges, inland and coastal waters, passenger vessels, and offshore and mineral operations.

Other areas of employment in the maritime industry include shipbuilding and repair, longshoring (cargo handling), port terminal administration, and intermodal logistics. For information on employment in these areas, please visit the Maritime Administration's website at <http://www.marad.dot.gov>

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

The Maritime Administration Office which coordinates information on seafaring employment and training is the:

Office of Maritime Workforce Development  
U.S. Maritime Administration (MAR 740)  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590.  
Phone: (202) 366-5737  
Email: [careersafloat@dot.gov](mailto:careersafloat@dot.gov).

## TRANSPORTATION WORKER IDENTIFICATION CREDENTIAL (TWIC)

TWICs are tamper-resistant biometric credentials for workers who require unescorted access to secure areas of ports, vessels, or outer continental shelf facilities such as U.S. Coast Guard-credentialed merchant mariners, port facility employees, longshoremen, and truck drivers. Starting April 15, 2009, all mariners will be required by law to hold a TWIC in order to obtain or maintain their USCG credentials.

To get a TWIC you must enroll in the program in person at a TSA enrollment center. A list of enrollment centers and their locations can be found on the TSA website <http://twicinformation.tsa.dhs.gov/twicinfo/> or by calling the TWIC call center at 1-866-DHS-TWIC (1-866-347-8942).

*Note: information regarding the TWIC is correct as of the printing of this brochure. Ensure you have the latest information by calling the TWIC call center or log onto the TWIC website.*

## **UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

The U. S. Coast Guard (USCG), part of the Department of Homeland Security, is the regulatory agency responsible for licensing and certifying U.S. merchant mariners working aboard vessels larger than 100 gross registered tons. Licensing and documentation of mariners is coordinated at the USCG's Regional Examination Centers (REC). Those interested in employment afloat should contact the nearest REC for an explanation of regulations and assistance with submitting their application. Individuals may also contact the National Maritime Center (NMC) Help Desk with licensing questions and concerns at 1-888-I ASK NMC (1-888-427-5662).

### **USCG Regional Examination Centers (REC).**

#### **ALASKA, Anchorage**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
800 E. Diamond Blvd., Suite 3-227  
Anchorage, AK 99515  
Phone: (907) 271-6736

#### **ALASKA, Juneau**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
2760 Sherwood Lane, Suite 2A  
Juneau, AK 99801-8545  
Phone: (907) 463-2458

#### **CALIFORNIA, Los Angeles/Long Beach**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
501 W. Ocean Blvd, Suite 6200  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
Phone: (562) 495-1480

#### **CALIFORNIA, Oakland**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
Oakland Federal Bldg, North Tower  
1301 Clay Street, Room 180N  
Oakland, CA 94612-5200  
Phone: (510) 637-1124

#### **FLORIDA, Miami**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
Claude Pepper Federal Building  
51 S.W. 1st Ave., 6th Floor  
Miami, FL 33130-1608  
Phone: (305) 536-6548/6874

#### **HAWAII, Honolulu**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
433 Ala Moana Blvd.  
Honolulu, HI 96813-4909

Phone: (808) 522-8264

**LOUISIANA, Mandeville**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
4250 Hwy 22, Suite F  
Mandeville, LA 70471  
Phone: (985) 624-5700

**MARYLAND, Baltimore**

U.S. Coast Guard (REC)  
U.S. Customs House  
40 South Gay Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202-4022  
Phone: (410) 962-5132

**MASSACHUSETTS, Boston**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
455 Commercial Street  
Boston, MA 02109-1045  
Phone: (617) 223-3040

**MISSOURI, St. Louis**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
1222 Spruce Street, Room 7.105  
St. Louis, MO 63103-2846  
Phone: (314) 269-2504

**NEW YORK, New York**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
Battery Park Building  
1 South Street  
New York, NY 10004-1466  
Phone: (212) 668-7492

**OHIO, Toledo**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
420 Madison Ave., Suite 700  
Toledo, OH 43604  
Phone: (419) 418-6010

**OREGON, Portland**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
911 NE 11th Avenue, RM 637  
Portland, OR 97232-4169  
Phone: (503) 231-2296

**SOUTH CAROLINA, Charleston**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
196 Tradd Street  
Charleston, SC 29401-1899  
Phone: (843) 720-3250

**TENNESSEE, Memphis**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
200 Jefferson Ave., Suite 1302  
Memphis, TN 38103  
Phone: (901) 544-3297

**TEXAS, Houston**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
8876 Gulf Freeway, Suite 200  
Houston, TX 77017-6595  
Phone: (713) 948-3350

**WASHINGTON, Seattle**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
915 Second Ave., Room 194  
Seattle, WA 98174-1067  
Phone: (206) 220-7327

This list is also found at:  
<http://www.uscg.mil/nmc>

## THE MERCHANT MARINER'S DOCUMENT

The Merchant Mariner Document (MMD), also called a "Z-card", is issued by the Coast Guard. With only a few exceptions, no one may be employed on a U.S.-flag merchant vessel of 100 gross tons or over without an MMD. Currently, you must appear at a REC during the application process for ID verification and fingerprinting. MMDs expire five years from the issue date, and therefore, must be renewed before the end of that five-year period. The MMD can be renewed up to 12 months before expiration.

The USCG is continually updating and improving the licensing and documentation process. Additionally, they plan to replace the MMD, license, and STCW certificates with a new Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC). We recommend you contact the closest REC or the USCG website for the latest guidance on this process: <http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/>

### Applying for an original MMD

No evidence of service is required to obtain an MMD for entry level ratings. An applicant must present evidence of passing a drug test. Mariners wishing to have their entry level MMD endorsed for international service must show evidence of medical fitness (e.g., agility, ability, and strength). The specific requirements for an original MMD are:

a) Applicants must be at least 16 years of age. An applicant between 16 and 18 years of age must present a notarized statement of parental or guardian's consent.

b) The applicant must furnish two unmounted dull-finished photographs of passport type (2 inches by 1.5 inches, or 5.1 cm by 3.8 cm) taken within one year showing the full face at least one inch (0.4 cm) in height with the head uncovered. Some RECs are equipped with cameras for this purpose; therefore, before purchasing photos, check with the REC at which you plan to apply.

c) Applicants who indicate the use of drugs or conviction of drug-related offenses, other criminal convictions or National Driver Register (NDR) motor vehicle convictions may not be eligible for an MMD.

d) The fingerprints of all applicants will be taken and reviewed against a database of persons with a criminal record.

e) Applicants who are U. S. citizens must present acceptable evidence of citizenship at the time of filing the original application. Acceptable evidence of citizenship includes an original or certified copy of the applicant's: birth certificate, certificate of naturalization (only original is acceptable), baptismal certificate, or a valid U.S. passport.

f) Aliens applying for an MMD must present acceptable documentary evidence from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) that

the alien is lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence.

Individuals seeking qualified ratings must show evidence of service, and in some cases evidence of approved training.

The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) requires extensive training for mariners in qualified ratings who wish to sail internationally. Contact a USCG Regional Examination Center (REC) for specific information.

### **Application Forms**

Application forms can be found on the USCG NMC website (<http://www.uscg.mil/nmc>) or obtained from an REC. Additionally the USCG has created check lists and guides with instructions on how to apply and which forms you will need to submit. Once your application has been submitted, you can check the status of your application on the NMC website or by calling 1-888-I-ASK-NMC (1-888-427-5662).

### **Cost of a MMD**

The Coast Guard is required by law to collect a fee for issuing an MMD. A table of user fees for merchant mariner credentials can be found on the USCG website at: [http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/ldcr\\_userfees.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/ldcr_userfees.asp).

## **MARTIME EMPLOYMENT**

### **HIGH SEAS**

Employment aboard ocean and coastal U.S.-flag ships is usually handled by either the maritime labor unions or ship

operators. Information on high seas shipboard employment is available through the following industry contacts:

### **Maritime Labor Unions**

#### **Seafarers International Union**

PO Box 75  
Piney Point, MD 20674  
Phone: (877) 235-3275  
<http://www.seafarers.org>

#### **Sailors Union of the Pacific**

450 Harrison Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
Phone: (415) 777-3400  
<http://www.sailors.org>

#### **Marine Firemen's Union**

240 Second St  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
Phone: (415) 362-4592  
<http://www.mfoww.org>

#### **American Maritime Officers**

490 L'Enfant Plaza East, SW, Suite 7204  
Washington, DC 20024  
Phone: (202) 479-1166  
<http://www.amo-union.org>

#### **Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association**

Association, District No. 1-MEBA  
444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20001  
Phone: (202) 638-5355  
<http://www.d1meba.org>

**International Organization of Masters,  
Mates and Pilots**  
700 Maritime Blvd  
Linthicum Heights, MD 21090  
Phone: (410) 850-8700  
<http://www.bridgedeck.com>

### **Maritime Labor-Management Affiliations Guide**

The Maritime Administration publishes the Maritime Labor-Management Affiliations Guide which provides additional information on the major maritime management and trade organizations, the seafaring labor organizations, and many U.S. -flag ship operator companies. Copies are available on line (<http://www.marad.dot.gov>) or by contacting:

Office of Sealift support (MAR-630)  
Maritime Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590.  
Phone: (202) 366-2646

**The Military Sealift Command (MSC)**, Department of the Navy, operates numerous merchant-type ships manned by civilian crews employed as Civil Servants. For further information, contact:

MSC, CIVMAR Support Center  
6353 Center Drive  
Building 8, Suite 202  
Norfolk, VA 23502  
Phone: (877) 562-7672  
<http://www.sealiftcommand.com>

**The National Oceanic Atmospheric  
Administration, Office of Marine and Aviation  
Opportunities**, operates high seas and inland oceanographic research and survey vessels. Most afloat personnel are civil servants. Detailed employment information is available on the internet at <http://www.commerce.gov/jobs>.

### ***GREAT LAKES, TOWING AND BARGE, AND COASTAL AND INLAND WATERS***

**The American Waterways Operators (AWO)** is the national trade association for the U.S. tugboat, towboat, and barge industry. AWO has over 400 member companies which operate throughout the United States on rivers, canals, ports and harbors, the Great Lakes, and the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf coasts. You can find information on the tugboat, towboat, and barge industry and a list of AWO's member companies at [www.americanwaterways.com](http://www.americanwaterways.com).

**The Lake Carriers Association**, Suite 915, 614 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, 44113, represents 18 U.S. flag companies operating 62 vessels on the Great Lakes and can furnish information regarding employment opportunities for mariners. Telephone: 216-861-0592, or email: [info@lcaships.com](mailto:info@lcaships.com). LCA's website is: [www.lcaships.com](http://www.lcaships.com).

**The Passenger Vessel Association** focuses on the issues and concerns of owners and operators of passenger vessels, manufacturers of maritime-related products and services and other service companies dedicated to achieving a common goal

and working to develop a superior business environment for all. The association's address is: 901 N. Pitt Street, Suite 100 Alexandria, VA 22314. Phone: (800) 807-8360 (toll-free) or (703) 518-5005. PVA's website is:  
<http://www.passengervessel.com/>

**The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** operates floating equipment which maintains and improves the Nation's waterways. These vessels are also manned by civil service. Employment opportunities are very limited. Federal employment opportunities with the Corps of Engineers are advertised through the Office of Personnel Management at [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov).

## **OFFSHORE OIL AND MINERAL**

**Offshore Marine Services Association, Inc. (OMSA)** is an association of companies which operate oil and mineral vessels such as crew and supply boats that support offshore oil and mineral rigs and platforms. OMSA's website contains listings of companies and employment contacts on the internet at: <http://www.offshoremarine.org>.

## **MARITIME EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

### **Maritime Theme Schools**

Maritime programs are offered in various middle and high schools around the country. These programs provide rigorous academic programs with a focus on maritime studies, science, and technology. They also provide students the opportunity to enter maritime careers upon graduation or to pursue further advanced maritime education at a vocational school, community college, service academy or maritime academy.

Contact the U.S. Department of Education or the Association for Career and Technical Education for information regarding maritime theme schools. A list of high schools or associations with maritime-oriented programs can also be found at: <http://www.marad.dot.gov/acareerafloat/highschools.htm>.

### **Maritime Academies**

There are seven maritime academies in the U.S. that educate and train individuals to become officers in the merchant marine. Graduates receive college degrees and U.S. Coast Guard licenses as STCW qualified deck or engineering officers.

#### **US Merchant Marine Academy**

300 Steamboat Road  
Kings Point, NY 11024  
Phone: (866) 546- 4778  
<http://www.usmma.edu>

#### **California Maritime Academy**

200 Maritime Academy Drive.  
Vallejo, CA 94590  
Phone: (707) 654-1000  
<http://www.csum.edu/>

#### **Great Lakes Maritime Academy**

Northwestern Michigan College  
715 East Front Street  
Traverse City, Michigan 49686  
Phone: (800) 748-0566 ext. 1200  
<http://www.nmc.edu/maritime/>

**Maine Maritime Academy**

Castine, ME 04420-5000

Phone: (800) 464-6565 (In state)  
(800) 227-8465 (Out of State)

<http://www.mainemaritime.edu/>

**Massachusetts Maritime Academy**

101 Academy Drive

Buzzards Bay, MA 02532

Phone: (508)830-5000

<http://www.maritime.edu>

**State University of New York Maritime College**

6 Pennyfield Avenue

Throggs Neck, New York 10465

Phone: (718) 409-7200

<http://www.sunymaritime.edu/>

**Texas Maritime Academy**

Texas A&M University at Galveston

Box 1675

Galveston, Texas 77553 -1675

Phone: (877) 322-4443

<http://www.tamug.edu>

**Maritime Labor affiliated Schools**

The U.S. maritime industry operates high quality, state-of-the-art training facilities that provide a wide variety of courses for mariners entering the industry as well as those upgrading their qualifications.

**Calhoon MEBA Engineering School**

27050 Saint Michaels Road

Easton, MD 21601

Phone: (410) 822-9600

<http://www.mebaschool.org/>

**Andrew Furuseth School of Seamanship**

450 Harrison Street

San Francisco, CA 94405

Phone: (415) 777-3400

<http://www.sailors.org>

**Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies (MITAGS)**

692 Maritime Boulevard

Linthicum, Maryland 21090

Phone: (866) 656-5568

<http://www.mitags.org>

**Pacific Maritime Institute (PMI)**

1729 Alaskan Way South

Seattle, WA 98134

Phone: (888) 893-7829

<http://www.mates.org>

**Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education**

Box 75

Piney Point, MD 20674-0075

Phone: (301) 994-0010

(877) 235-3275 (toll-free)

<http://www.seafarers.org/phc/>

**RTM STAR Center**

2 West Dixie Highway

Dania Beach, FL 33004

Phone: (800) 445-4522 (toll-free); 954-921-7254

<http://www.star-center.com>



### **Other Schools**

Numerous schools exist around the country that provide maritime training for new and experienced mariners. Additional schools are listed on the Careers Afloat website at: <http://www.marad.dot.gov/acareerafloat>

#### **Seaman's Church Institute**

Center for Maritime Education  
241 Water Street  
New York, NY 10038  
Phone: (212) 233-2242  
<http://seamenschurch.com>

#### **IBU Job Corps Seamanship training Program**

Tongue Point Job Corps Center  
Astoria, OR 97103  
Phone: (503) 325-8475  
Mailto: [ibusm@pacifier.com](mailto:ibusm@pacifier.com)

#### **Kingsborough Community College**

Office of Marine Education  
2001 Oriental Boulevard  
Brooklyn, NY 11235  
Phone: (718) 368-5525  
Mailto: [jmuzio@kbcc.cuny.edu](mailto:jmuzio@kbcc.cuny.edu)

#### **Seattle Central Community College**

Seattle Maritime Academy  
4455 Shilshole Avenue, NW  
Seattle, WA 98107  
Phone: (206) 782-2647

### **Specialized Safety Courses**

The U.S. Coast Guard approves courses in marine fire fighting, collision avoidance navigation, radar, vessel stability, and emergency medical care. For further information, contact:

U.S. Coast Guard  
National Maritime Center  
100 Forbes Blvd  
Martinsburg, WV 25404  
Phone: 1-888-I-ASK-NMC (1-888-427-5662)  
Email: [IASKNMC@uscg.mil](mailto:IASKNMC@uscg.mil)

The Maritime Administration approves courses in maritime security training:

Maritime Administration (MAR-740)  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590  
Phone: (202) 366-2647  
Internet: [www.marad.dot.gov/MTSA](http://www.marad.dot.gov/MTSA)

#### **Maritime Administration Marine Fire Fighting**

The Maritime Administration operates the Great Lakes Fire Training Center. The Center, trains mariners to extinguish live fires in a realistic ship-like structure. The training meets U.S. Coast guard requirement for training and certification of seaman.

Maritime Administration  
Fire Training Center  
2600 S. Eber Road  
Swanton, Ohio 43558  
Phone: (419) 574-1965

Email: [GLFireschool@dot.gov](mailto:GLFireschool@dot.gov)